

**REMARKS**

By this amendment, claims 1-17 are pending, in which claims 1, 3, 6-9, 11, and 13-17 are currently amended. No new matter is introduced.

The Office Action mailed January 30, 2004 objected to FIG. 1, the Specification, and claims 6-7 and rejected claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by “US Patent 6,374,254 to Ng et al.”

In response to the various objections, the Specification is amended to reference item 117 of FIG. 1, update information regarding co-pending and/or related applications, and use a mark in conformance with the rules of the Patent Office. Moreover, claims 6-8 and 13 are amended as helpfully suggested by the Examiner, the trade name in claim 3 is removed, and antecedent basis for “the other” is supplied in claim 9 by reciting “an other” instead of “another.”

The rejection of claims 1-17 under the reference identified by “US Patent 6,374,254 to Ng et al.” is respectfully traversed, because the reference does not exist. No copy of that reference was supplied in the Office Action and no such reference—either with a document number of US 6,374,254 or a name of Ng et al.—was listed in the PTO-892 form. Moreover, US 6,374,254 is issued to *Cochran et al.*, not Ng et al., and does not appear to have a disclosure consistent with the Office Action’s use of it. Nevertheless, the Applicant’s representative has managed to identify a US 6,374,256 issued to Ng et al. that may bear some relation to the Office Action.

Because neither *Cochran et al.* nor Ng et al. have been official made of record in this application, an IDS is submitted to officially make those references of record.

Claims 1-17 are also patentable over Ng et al. in the IDS filed herewith because Ng et al. fails to disclosure the limitations of the claims. For example, claim 1, as amended, recites: “creating a persistent agent based on a name identifying the class, said persistent agent providing an interface including a routine for persistently storing the object in a persistent object store.”

The remaining independent claims also set for the “name identifying a class” feature. This feature is not shown in *Ng et al.*

*Ng et al.* is directed to a “method and apparatus for creating indexed in a relational database corresponding to classes in an object-oriented application.” In particular, *Ng et al.* discloses the use of a GUI-style object-database mapping tool **508** whereby a user may select fields of a class and have corresponding indexes be generated for the user-selected fields. *Ng et al.* further disclose a database connectivity DBC module **208** that provides an API for Java™ applications to make SQL calls to a database (col. 6:12-35). *Ng et al.* does not disclose, however, that any agent, much less a persistent agent, is created based on a name of a class. In fact, both the database connectivity DBC module **208** and the object-database mapping tool **508** appear to be independent components provided separately from any class name.

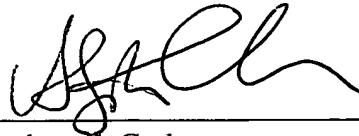
Therefore, the present application, as amended, overcomes the objections and rejections of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at 703-425-8516 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date



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